

5 MAR 1957

*Card*

General Robert Cutler  
Special Assistant to the  
President for National Security Affairs  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

NSC REVIEW  
COMPLETED.

Dear General Cutler:

We have been making some progress in responding to the recommendation on coordination of NSC 5412 matters. At a meeting with the members of the President's Special Advisory Committee on 27 February, I ascertained that they had not intended "joint staffing" in the sense that two or more agencies would work out the details of 5412 projects; their concern was that the designated representatives should have adequate information on which to base decisions and that representatives of State and Defense at home and abroad should be adequately informed concerning operations which would affect them. Since the expression "joint staffing" is not interpreted in a manner inconsistent with my responsibility under the law to protect sources and methods, it is now clear that the intent of the recommendation can be fully achieved by a strengthening of liaison procedures.

As a result of that meeting and our 5412 meeting in the afternoon of 27 February, I am now prepared to outline the procedures which I believe achieve the purpose of NSC 5412/2 and the Board's recommendation. I am attaching a statement of these procedures to this letter. It will, of course, be possible to make adjustments if further discussion is felt desirable by any one of the representatives, but I believe that this completes the action requested on recommendation No. 5.

In the course of reviewing this matter, another consideration has arisen. As it is now worded, NSC 5412/2 speaks of the three designated representatives as being "the normal channel for giving policy approval." The implication is that all three designated representatives might be consulted on policy approval for a program. I think it would be acceptable to both the Department of State,

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the Department of Defense and the representative of the President, that they should be requested to give policy approval only on programs which affected their own particular missions, support facilities, or parallel operations. This would simplify the briefing of Liaison officers, reduce the amount of detail to which the designated representatives were subjected, and would be in keeping with the emphasis in paragraphs 4 and 5 of NSC 5412/2 upon coordination with the departments or agencies affected by covert operations. I am not sure that opening NSC 5412 to re-drafting would be advisable merely to alter the wording in this one instance, but I would appreciate your thinking on this.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

Attachment

O/DCI/LEC:jmf (1 Mar 57)

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ATTACHMENT

1. During the preliminary consideration of 5412 operations, the Director of Central Intelligence will informally discuss them with the 5412 designated representatives, or when necessary with the GCB, or representatives of other agencies as may be essential on a need-to-know basis, in any case where the operation may affect any other department or agency in a matter of policy, support requirements, or coordination of operations.

2. When the CIA staff work has been completed and the Director of Central Intelligence is prepared to seek policy approval and coordination, he will make a presentation for approval in any detail desired by the designated representatives.

3. The designated representatives will name a senior staff officer acceptable to the Director of Central Intelligence to work with the CIA staff to ensure that principals concerned are adequately informed and that essential coordination is effected with due respect to security control procedures.

4. CIA will maintain sole operational control of projects, will retain possession of all operational files and reports, and will be informed of the names and the extent of knowledge of all persons in other departments or agencies who are made witting of 5412 programs or projects.

5. The Director of Central Intelligence will delegate to his senior representatives in overseas areas the responsibility of keeping the senior representatives of other departments and agencies informed of any CIA operations which affect them in matters of policy, support requirements, or coordination of operations.

6. As an exception to the foregoing, where there is a particularly sensitive project of a foreign political nature under 5412/2 which does not call for any logistic or other support from Defense and which relates exclusively to the carrying out of our foreign policy, the President shall give general direction, pursuant to 5412, paragraph 7, that clearance of such a project by the Department of State shall constitute sufficient guidance for the Director of Central Intelligence, and the Department of State's finding, through the Secretary or Under Secretary, that a project falls within this category shall be conclusive.